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## NEWS RELEASE

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### MVED police officers arrest 4, Recover stolen guns and trucks

A week-long investigation by Motor Vehicle Enforcement police culminated in felony arrests of four Salt Lake County men, and the recovery of two stolen vehicles, and four stolen firearms.

The investigation began Jan. 3 when a 2006 Dodge Ram truck carrying five firearms was reported stolen from a Sandy residence. The vehicle had been left at the home with the engine running.

Later that day, three men were arrested, two weapons and a 1996 GMC truck were recovered following an improper registration stop by officers of the Motor Vehicle Enforcement, a division of the State Tax Commission.

Officers at the Salt Lake City scene recovered the stolen vehicle, a Remington Magnum 870 shotgun and a Hi Point 9mm Luger, and the key to the stolen Dodge truck. The vehicle at that scene was reported stolen from a Bountiful senior citizen housing residence. The following were arrested:

- **Michael Ray Ellis**, 26, Salt Lake City, a parole fugitive wanted as "armed and dangerous" by Adult Parole and Probation; charged with possession of firearms by a restricted person and possession of illegal drugs with intent to distribute, both second degree felonies. Possible federal felony charges may be filed pending further investigation.
- **Aaron Joshua Price**, age 26, Midvale; charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle, a second degree felony. He may also face additional felony charges pending further investigation.

Because the Dodge key and the description of the guns matched those stolen in Sandy, officers rigorously continued the investigation. Investigators with the assistance of Adult Parole and Probation conducted a probation search Tuesday. They recovered a machete and two other large knives and arrested

- **Eric Joseph Curtis**, 23, West Jordan; possession of a deadly weapon by a restricted person, a second degree felony.

Officers recovered the Dodge truck late Tuesday in South Salt Lake and arrested

- **Dylan Brown**, age 21, Salt Lake City, possession of a weapon by a restricted person and possession of a stolen vehicle, both second degree felonies.

**(Continued)**

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A Glock 21 .45 caliber pistol and a .357 Magnum revolver were also recovered from the Dodge truck. Brown, who was also a passenger in the small truck, was released at the scene on Jan. 3 pending further investigation.

The vehicle and two weapons have been returned to the victim. Officers continue to search for a fifth weapon, a Russian SKS rifle, which was also reported stolen with the vehicle.

In connection with the case, South Salt Lake City officers recovered a large box of ammunition that may be connected to the stolen weapons.

“We appreciate the cooperation and assistance of the Metro Gang Unit, Salt Lake County Sheriff’s Office, Adult Parole and Probation, City of South Salt Lake police, and Salt Lake City police in the investigation,” said Col. Kent Jorgensen, director of the Motor Vehicle Enforcement Division. “Their cooperation and the diligent work of our detectives resulted in getting four dangerous people off our streets and valuable property back to its rightful owner.”

Jorgensen emphasized the importance of always locking your vehicle and never leaving a vehicle running while unattended. “Sometimes we think we may be running in the house or a store for a *just few minutes* and that there’s no risk to leave your car running. But it is risky and those cars became easy targets for thieves.”

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